

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035315

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: EUR:DGOOTT

APPROVED BY: EUR:DGOOTT

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R 150132Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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FOLL REPEAT GENEVA 887 ACTION SECSTATE INFO VIENNA STOCKHOLM
MOSCOW PRAGUE OSLO HELSINKI EC BRUSSELS LONDON PARIS LUXEMBOURG
THE HAGUE BONN ROME DUBLIN COPENHAGEN 11 FEB 75 QUOTE

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AL USE GENEVA 0887

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB XB ILO

SUBJECT: SECOND EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
CONFERENCE, FEB 28-MARCH 1, 1975

REF: A-OSLO 121; B- PARIS 1019; C- HELSINKI 2007

1. SUMMARY: SUBJECT CONFERENCE IS NOT UNDER ILO AUSPICES BUT IS
PRIVATE MEETING SPONSORED BY FOUR EUROPEAN WORKERS MEMBERS OF ILO
GOVERN BODY. ATTENDANCE IS BY INVITATION AND IT WILL BE CLOSED TO
PRESS ANDPUBLIC. BLAND TECHNICAL AGENDA AND
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LOW POSTURE OF SOVIETS GIVE MEETING HARMLESS APPEARANCE BUT REAL

SIGNIFICANCE WILL LIE IN FOLLOW-UP, ESPECIALLY IF SOVIETS SUCCEED IN CONVINCING OTHERS OF NEED FOR SOME SORT OF FORMAL STRUCTURE TO ACCOMMODATE SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONFERENCE IS BEING HELD UNDER PERSONAL AUSPICES OF EUROPEAN WORKERS REPRESENTATIVES ON ILO GOVERNING BODY (USSR-PIMENOV; U.K.-PLANT; FRG-MUHR; AND NORWAY-SUNDE). ATTENDANCE IS BY INVITATION ONLY, AND THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WILL BE EXCLUDED. ALTHOUGH IT MEETS ON EVEN OF GOVERNING BODY SESSION, CONFERENCE IS NOT AN ILO MEETING AND ILO STANDING ORDERS WILL NOT APPLY. PARTICIPANTS WILL PAY THEIR OWN EXPENSES AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS WILL REIMBURSE THE ILO FOR EXTRA COSTS OF INTERPRETATION, TRANSLATION AND DOCUMENTATION. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE OF HIGHER RANK THAN SPONSORING GB MEMBERS; SHELEPIN(AUCCTU), VETTER (DGB), AND MURRAY AND JACK JONES (TUC) ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. AGENDA HAS TWO ITEMS; (1)HUMANIZATION OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND (2) PROTECTION OF WORKERS FROM EFFECTS OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES.

3. ILO STAFF MEMBERS IN CHARGE OF WORKERS RELATIONS, HAROLD DUNNING SEES CONFERENCE AS PART OF SOVIET STRATEGY TO FOSTER FORMAL REGIONAL EUROPEAN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE ILO AND TO GRADUALLY INCREASE SOVIET INFLUENCE ON WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENTS. ANOTHER PURPOSE OF SOVIET STRATEGY IS TO ISOLATE WE FROM US AND CANADIAN LABOR MOVEMENTS. DUNNING ALSO SEES POSSIBILITY NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE GENEVA, PERHAPS IN HELSINKI OR VIENNA.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE035315
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:DGOOTT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-0951
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750238/aaaabiyy.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A-OSLO 121; B- PARIS 1019; C- HELSIN, KI 2007
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, FEB 28-MARCH 1, 1975
TAGS: ELAB, XB, ILO
To: BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006